

IN THE CHINESE SERVICE.

SOME PECULIAR EXPERIENCES OF MAJOR VON HANNEMECK.

How His Plan for Raising an Army to Fight Japan Was Raised—The Chinese Forts—Mandarin Scars of the Army.

HONG KONG, June 20.—Major Von Hannemeck, who recently left here for Germany, talked freely in regard to his experiences of service in China. He gained much unenviable notoriety by his presence on the ill-fated Chinese transport, the *Kowshing*, as he failed to induce the Chinese commander to surrender to the Japanese demand, and was thus held partly responsible for the deaths of nearly one thousand Celestial troops on board. The Major escaped by swimming ashore, and when he returned to China there was some talk of giving him power, such as Gen. Gordon once possessed, to raise an independent army and proceed against the Japanese. This evidently fell through, but no real reason was ever given for the fiasco. Soon after came reports that Major Von Hannemeck had married and settled in the Chinese capital, and he has now gone back to Europe. He married in Shanghai, and this month took his departure. Old residents in China say he will return, as it is difficult for any foreigner who has ever held an important post here to remain content with life in Europe. China is something like the tropics. It is a hard place even for a strong man; one ages fast here, but despite this it has some charm which lures one back.

Major Von Hannemeck came out to China in 1879 on commission from Yieoy Li to reconstruct the Chinese army. This was the time when Russia was making a great demonstration, and it looked for a time as though she would actually attempt to absorb Manchuria and a portion of Corea in order to get the railroad terminus and the naval port that she desired after. Von Hannemeck is an expert military engineer, but when he reached China he found it hopeless to do anything for the army because of the jealousy of the petty commanders. These men all came up from the ranks, as military service is regarded as degrading by a mandarin or any member of the literati. They knew nothing of tactics, and were not trained to learn. Their code was one of mere rote learning. In fact the service was worthless as the commanders had no idea of what they were called upon to do. China is something like the tropics. It is a hard place even for a strong man; one ages fast here, but despite this it has some charm which lures one back.

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Major Von Hannemeck turned his attention to the fortification of the new strongholds that China had decided to set up as a defense against any invading force. The British had just been forced to make this the most powerful place in the Orient. Von Hannemeck had carts blanche, and he laid out forts and devised plans to defend the country against the English. How well he did his work was seen by foreign engineers when they recently inspected the works after the English had taken them. Von Hannemeck's plan was to fortify the coast, and to fortify the mountains. After putting Port Arthur in good shape, the Major went to Wei-hai-wei and Tsin-kuo-wan, and fortified those places as the situation required. All the forts and magazines were so practically impregnable that the English could not capture them. All the forts and magazines were so

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